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At the picture-dealer's stores of Goupil & Co., Williams, Stevens & Williams, and Schauss, are occasionally to be found pictures by skillful hands. Goupil's late exhibition of Winterhalter's "Florinde," and his "Empress Eugenie, and the Ladies of her Court," and his present exhibition of Gignoux's "Niagara Falls by Moonlight," are specimens of the treat that is offered to Broadway sight-seers. Williams, Stevens & Williams, lately exhibited Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," Church's "Niagara," the "Il Corso" of Barker of London, and the "Village Blacksmith," by the celebrated animal painter, J. F. Herring—which last painting is now the property of the "Cosmopolitan Art Association." It will, we learn, be offered as one of the prizes to subscribers for the next January's Award.

From this brief enumeration, the reader will perceive that New-York has strong and imperative claims to the title of Art-centre; and we much mistake the "signs of the times," if here is not to spring up that "American School of Art," of which so few critics have spoken hopefully. Freshness, vigor, breadth, poetry, spirit of Nature, precision in drawing, clear coloring, certainly will be characteristics of that "School" when it does come into being. That it will take definite form and shape in the next five years is our firm belief.

FOREIGN ART ITEMS.

N unusual number of American artists, says the Paris correspondent of the *Evening Post*, are passing the winter at Rome. Wood, of Baltimore, has finished a nice copy of Rosa Bonheur's plowing scene, and is now at work upon a copy of Titian's Madonna in the Louvre. White is busy finishing up orders. May is at work on pictures for the next exhibition. Yewell, who is luckiest of the young artists, has received an order to copy two Bouchers from the same gentleman who bought his copy of Rosa Bonheur. Wilson, of Philadelphia, Anibali and —, of Providence, are making studies from the modern French school. Cranch has gone to Italy, and Rothermel, who is now at Munich, is expected here in a few days. A want long felt by Americans visiting Paris is likely

to be answered. With but a few days or weeks in Paris, the visitor finds it impossible to learn the location of American artists, or, knowing it, to visit them, scattered as they are over this large city. It is proposed to establish a gallery in some central location, in which our artists can exhibit their pictures. Several resident Americans have generously offered to subscribe a sum sufficient to defray the preliminary expenses of this worthy object, and it bids fair to become one of the institutions of this city of attractions. Some months since, large and admirable copies of Paul Veronese's "Marriage at Cana," Raphael's "Holy Family," and Correggio's "Madonna," were made by one of the best French artists, in obedience to an order from a gentleman well known in New-York, and at whose residence in Brooklyn they now are. These pictures are frequently mentioned by connoisseurs here as among the best copies that have ever been made. It is to be hoped that the fortunate owner will give the public the benefit of his valuable acquisition.

A monument by Westmacott, to the memory of Sir John Franklin and his companions, has just been erected in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital. It is eighteen feet high by ten wide. In the centre is a large inscribed tablet. On the right of this is a statue of a naval officer, erect, studying from a large volume, compasses in hand, the route of the voyagers. A globe is at his side, and in the rear a ship is seen in bas relief. On the other side, the background is occupied by an iceberg. A spar with tackle is lodged in one of its fissures. Above is the north star. In front is a statue of a sailor, in polar costume, seated on a rock. His face, indicative of deep grief, is supported by his hand. One foot, wounded, is bandaged. Beside him is an anchor of the peculiar form used for grappling the ice.

We learn from the London *Athenæum*, that a set of engravings from a curious series of scriptural designs, by a British artist, found in a MS. in the British Museum, executed, it is supposed, about the year 1310, is in course of publication by Mr. Westlake, of London. The pictures represent scenes from Old Testament history.

One hundred cases have just been received in England, containing additional results of the excavations at Halicarnas-

sus and Cnidus, by Mr. Newton. Among the latter is a gigantic lion of Parian marble, in a crouching attitude, measuring ten feet in length by six in height, and weighing eight tons. Fifty cases have also been received from Carthage, where similar excavations are in progress. All are for the British Museum.

The *Providence Journal* gives the following, translated from an Athens paper:

"During the last week of October interesting archæological discoveries were made, in course of the excavations that are now proceeding in the Acropolis. Among the things brought to light is an image of Minerva, in a mutilated state, without head, hands, or feet, having on the breast a head of Medusa, and wearing a garment extending to the feet. Pedestals with inscriptions have also been found. On one of them stands the statue of the comic poet Philemon, son of Damon; on another, a statue erected by the Athenians in honor of Julius Cæsar; and upon other two are inscribed the names of the gate-keepers of the Acropolis. A pillar bears a votive offering of Nicaretes of the Attic Demus Peleces. There is also a pedestal, five feet in height, on which the people of Gythium erected a statue to Claudius Atticus (Herodes), styling himself the benefactor of the nation, and founder and savior of the city. Pieces of slabs, with parts of public decrees, etc., inscribed upon them, have also been discovered. A few days previously the workmen had brought to light a wide stairway of ten steps, leading into the Parthenon on the west side, and an inscription mentioning an unknown structure in the Acropolis, called the *Chalkotheke*—a receptacle for brazen vessels or instruments; also a part of a Quadrireme, in low relief, in which the rowers are very spiritedly represented. From the figure of a man lying on the deck, wearing the tiara and trowsers, it is supposed that this was a Persian quadrireme, taken probably at Salamis, or in some other naval battle."

The statue of Handel is now ready for casting. The sculpture is named Heidel, and his work is intended for Halle. The figure is attired in the costume of the period in which Handel lived; the left hand rests on the side; the right, in which is placed a roll of music, rests on a small desk before him, on which lies the score of the "Messiah." The figure has much firmness and character; the head is raised,

and the attitude is such as if he were about to give the signal for the commencement of the oratorio. The likeness has been obtained from the statue by Rubiliac in Westminster Abbey, for which Handel sat to the sculptor. The statue will be cast at Berlin, and forwarded to its destination next summer.

A "Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts" has just been formed in London under the presidency of the Earl of Carlisle, the object of which is to diffuse sound principles of Art and Criticism among the public by means of lectures, discussions, and classes for study, illustrated by examples from the works of eminent masters of all schools. In the list of vice-presidents we find the names of the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Ward, and Lord Feversham. The corresponding secretary is Mr. Henry Ottley.

An attempt has been made to re-open the ancient marble quarries on the Island of Paros. A company was formed for the purpose, and a load of the revived Parian marble shipped to Rome, where it was found that the marble was scarcely fit for architectural purposes. It was not so good as the poorest quality of Carrara, and so has been abandoned.

An equestrian statue of Bolivar, destined for Peru, has been cast at Munich. It is 15½ feet high, and weighs about 222 cwt. It was cast at one jet, with the exception of the forelegs of the horse, and the head of his rider.

An Art Union has been organized at the London Crystal Palace, with Lord Carlisle at its head. £7,000 is to be distributed in prizes.

Louis Fould, the deceased banker, left by will, to the French Academy, twenty thousand francs for the best history of the Arts of Design among the various nations of antiquity down to the age of Pericles. The subject will continue open for the annual session of 1860.

A statue of Peter the Hermit has recently been inaugurated in the gardens of the old Monastery of Neumoustier, at Huy, in Belgium, in which monastery he died.

Greenough, the sculptor, has in hand an exquisite little figure representing America with the olive leaves in her outstretched hand, while the drawn sword behind her in the right indicates the readiness for war if it becomes necessary.

DOMESTIC ART GOSSIP.

THE article, "Art Resources," gives much of the current Art news of the metropolis. We may further add that all artists are very busy on their pictures designed for the Academy Exhibition. Each year's contributions to this annual exhibition mark the progress of artist as well as of art; and, therefore, it is to the painter what "commencement day" is to the graduating class—a source of no little anxious preparation. We may safely prophesy that the coming Annual Exposition of the Academy will be one of the most admirable, in many respects, of any yet made. It will show American Art in a flattering light, prove it not only full of promise but also of achievement. We shall make a note of the exhibition and refer to it in our next.

T. Buchanan Read has returned from abroad. He passed some time in Italy, a few years since, and became so much attached to life in Florence as to resolve upon a permanent residence there. Returning to his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, he painted up his numerous commissions, and with prospects of a happy life embarked with his family for Florence. The promise was brilliant enough; but death came into his household and desolated it. He has returned to his native country, and settled permanently, we believe, in New-York, devoting his time to his easel and his pen. Mr. Read is an artist of many excellences, not the least of which is his exquisite composition. His creations are highly original and spiritual in character, and painted with that sensibility which can only spring from a poet's heart. His "Spirit of the Waterfall," lately on exhibition at Williams & Stevens', attracted crowds of visitors, and deservedly so. The picture is thus described:—"A slight, fair young girl seems gently floating, partly in air, partly in water, on the surface of the descending flood, which, broken here and there into shoots of spray, forms the back ground. Attendant female sprites are about her shooting down with the flow of the fall. The head of one gently touches and seems to nestle a moment on her shoulder. The face of the sprite has a delicate, pure, pretty expression. A white cloud-like drapery floats from a

loose zone of pearls." This exquisite work was painted in Italy, for a gentleman in Philadelphia, who paid the artist one thousand dollars for it. He has since been offered twice that sum for it. Mr. Read has rooms in the Tenth-street Building, New-York.

Huntington has returned from abroad, and has rooms in Appleton's building.

Durand, Kensett, and Rossiter, will have superb pictures in at the new exhibition. The first, a pastoral landscape and a wood scene: the second, Lake Windermere and Old Father Oak. Rossiter has several good things ready. Among his last designs is a group of the discoverers of America—a large, and, we are told, a very noble composition. Rossiter and Mignot are painting a "Mount Vernon Picture" of Washington and family, grouped on the piazza of the old mansion on the Potomac. Mr. R. "does" the figures, Mr. M. the accessories.

Mr. Stillman is finishing up (in Boston) a full-length of the poet, Longfellow. It will, of course, be fine.

Mr. Mathews, in Appleton's building, is doing a life size half-length of Daniel Webster, ordered by the Mercantile Library Association of San Francisco.

Church and the "Albany Sculptor," Palmer, go to Europe this spring for study and recreation. Both have several important commissions now in hand. Palmer has had busts of Alexander Hamilton, Gov. Marcy, and Gov. Morgan, ordered. During Mr. Palmer's last summer's residence at Aurora, in New-York, he lost a dear child, who bore the name of his friend Church. The artist has, *in memoriam*, painted an exquisite picture, representing the setting of a single star upon a placid lake. Mr. Church is busy upon his great canvas of South American scenery.

Casilear has lately finished several charming landscapes. A Swiss scene is said to be unusually fine.

Shattuck will have in the exhibition a large picture, representing the Androcoggin in Autumn. It is regarded as one of his best, as it is one of his most labored works.

Blauvelt's "Counterfeit Bill" has proved a great success. The artist, we are sorry to learn, has been ill most of the winter, and has done very little. He is now at his studio again, and we have good reason to count upon something *very* provocative of smiles from his hands. He is one of